

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Issue Research and Action Team (IRA)
February 26, 2014 Minutes

The Issue Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on February 26th, 2014,
at 5:30pm in the Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. First St

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon, Chair
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Karen Kurtz

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Moon called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Discuss and take action on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Conversations on Discrimination series.

Ms. Arenas advised of changes in the dates proposed at the previous meeting. The new dates occur within a week and a half timespan allowing for more constant data reporting. Mr. Johnson amended his previous motion to accept the dates, time and locations proposed for the dialogue series to include April 26th, 2014 as the first event instead of April 12th, 2014. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Heap stated that she will work on obtaining assistance for food and snacks to be provided at the first "kickoff" meeting. Ms. Heap questioned how many people are planned for attendance. In response, Ms. Arenas noted that staffing and facilitation will be supplied to accommodate one hundred participants.

Ms. Kurtz questioned if each session was going to be broken down by topics or open to all topics. Ms. Giese advised that based on the survey results, it would be best to open the forums to all topics and perhaps include an educational component during the opening statements. Ms. Kurtz suggested that the educational information be framed around why participants are attending, why does diversity and inclusion matter and provide the survey results. Ms. Kurtz also stated that a personal statement on why diversity matters can be an impactful way to get participants comfortable enough to speak within their groups. Ms. Heap also suggested including a statement on why it is important for the community to value diversity and inclusion. Ms. Kurtz recommended that since this statement can be answered differently among individuals, it would be best to state why HRAB feels diversity and inclusion is important for the community. IRA members agreed on the direction of the opening statements and asked Ms. Kurtz and staff to continue working on series. Ms. Giese reminded the board members that they sponsor the Cinema Series, which also acts as a public educational program.

Mr. Moon asked Ms. Kurtz, third party consultant, to review the three participant evaluations of the dialogues supplied at the previous meeting. Ms. Kurtz provided feedback and Mr. Moon will draft a new evaluation form to be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20th, 2014 at 5:00pm.

5. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator